AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a KGF agonist and a gastrin compound that provides beneficial effects relative to each compound alone, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or vehicle.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of KGF agonist to gastrin compound is selected to augment the activity of the KGF agonist or gastrin compound.

7. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein the ratio of a KGF agonist to a gastrin compound is from about 1:1 to 1:110, 1:1 to 1:100, 1:1 to 1:75, 1:1 to 1:50, 1:1 to 1:25, 1:1 to 1:10, 1:1 to 1:5, and 1:1.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising an additive amount or synergistically effective amount of the KGF agonist and the gastrin compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier, or vehicle.

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising between 0.1 to 20, 0.1 to 30, 0.1 to 40, 0.1 to 50, and 0.1 to 60 micrograms/kg/day KGF agonist and 0.1 to 20, 0.1 to 30, 0.1 to 40, 0.1 to 50, and 0.1 to 60 micrograms/kg/day gastrin compound.

13. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the beneficial effects are one or more of the following: reduced or absent islet inflammation,

decreased disease progression, increased survival, or decreased symptoms of a disease or condition.

14-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a stable pharmaceutical composition of a KGF agonist comprising mixing a KGF agonist, a gastrin compound, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or vehicle effective to physically stabilize the KGF agonist and adapted to provide beneficial effects ~~preferably sustained beneficial effects~~.

31-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) A method for inducing islet neogenesis in a subject comprising contacting islet precursor cells with a KGF agonist and a gastrin compound, ~~or a composition, or conjugate of any preceding claim~~ in a sufficient amount to increase proliferation of islet precursor cells in the subject thereby inducing islet neogenesis.

36. (Currently amended) A method for expanding and differentiating stem cells into insulin secreting cells comprising contacting the stem cells with an effective amount of a KGF agonist and a gastrin compound ~~or a composition or conjugate of any preceding claim~~.

37-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, the method comprising: contacting *ex vivo* a plurality of cells with a composition comprising a KGF receptor ligand and a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand in an amount sufficient to increase proliferation of islet precursor cells and the amount of insulin secreting islet cells; and administering the contacted plurality of cells to a mammal in need thereof, thereby preventing and/or treating the diabetes.

43. (Currently amended) A method of claim 42, wherein the amount of KGF <u>receptor ligand</u> in the composition is substantially lower than the minimum effective dose of KGF

receptor ligand required to reduce blood glucose in the diabetic mammal in the absence of a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand.

44. (Original) A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a composition comprising a combination of a KGF receptor ligand and a gastrin /CCK receptor ligand, in an amount sufficient to increase the number of pancreatic insulin secreting β cells in the mammal; and determining the amount of islet neogenesis, thereby preventing and/or treating the diabetes.

45. (Currently amended) A method of claim 44, wherein ~~determining~~ the amount of islet neogenesis is ~~measuring~~ measured by a parameter selected from the group of: blood glucose, serum glucose, blood glycosylated hemoglobin, pancreatic β cell mass, serum insulin, pancreatic insulin content, and morphometrically determined β cell mass.

46-58. (Cancelled)

59. (Original) A method for inducing pancreatic islet neogenesis in a mammal, the method comprising administering a composition comprising a combination of a KGF receptor ligand and a gastrin /CCK receptor ligand, in an amount sufficient to increase the number of pancreatic insulin secreting β cells in the mammal.

60. (Original) A method for inducing islet neogenesis therapy in a cell of an animal, comprising contacting the cell with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand operably linked to an insulin promoter receptor ligand and a nucleic acid sequence encoding a KGF receptor ligand operably linked to a metallothionein promoter.

61-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Original) A nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a mammalian KGF receptor ligand operably linked to a heterologous promoter and a nucleic acid sequence encoding a mammalian gastrin/CCK receptor ligand operably linked to a heterologous

promoter.

64-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Original) A kit for preventing and/or treating diabetes, containing a composition comprising a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and a KGF receptor ligand, a container, and instructions for use.

69. (New) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the KGF agonist comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, or 11.

70. (New) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the gastrin compound comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

71. (New) A method of claim 35 wherein the KGF agonist comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, or 11 and the gastrin compound comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.